

Minutes of the
BOUNTIFUL CITY COUNCIL
February 24, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.

Official notice of the City Council Meeting was given by posting an Agenda at City Hall and on the Bountiful City Website and the Utah Public Notice Website and by providing copies to the following newspapers of general circulation: The City Journal and Standard Examiner.

Work Session – 6:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers

Present:	Mayor	Kate Bradshaw
	Councilmembers	Mille Segura Bahr, Dan Bell, Beth Child, Richard Higginson, Matt Murri
	City Manager	Gary Hill
	Asst City Manager	Tyson Beck
	City Attorney	Brad Jeppsen
	City Engineer	Lloyd Cheney
	Chief of Police	Ed Biehler
	Recording Secretary	Maranda Hilton

Mayor Bradshaw called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm and welcomed those in attendance. Senator Weiler was delayed, so mayor Bradshaw asked Mr. Brad Jeppsen to proceed with his agenda item first.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FROM SENATOR TODD WEILER

Tabled until Senator Weiler arrived.

OPEN MEETINGS TRAINING – MR. BRADLEY JEPPESEN

Mr. Jeppsen conducted a training of the Utah Open and Public Meetings Act (§52-4-104), fulfilling the annual requirement to do so.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FROM SENATOR TODD WEILER

Mayor Bradshaw asked Mr. Gary Hill to talk about some of the legislative bills that he has been watching and working on with the Utah League of Cities and Towns (ULCT).

Mr. Hill explained that there are several bills focused on increasing affordable housing in Utah, but many of them do not include any requirement of affordability within them, and they propose taking the power away from local governments to make certain decisions. HB184 from Rep. Ray Ward is seeking to establish a state-preferred land use that would entitle anyone in a residential zone to build on a smaller lot, and would create an expedited process that circumvents the established City ordinances. He explained that this bill is following a national trend that points the finger at local governments as the problem. He said that Mayor Bradshaw was able to testify about why this bill was concerning and did an excellent job.

Mr. Hill said there are bills that are trying to make it more difficult to increase property taxes, either by requiring voter approval or putting a percentage cap on increases. He explained that the ULCT has been working with Rep. Karen Peterson to write a bill that does a better job of educating

1 what a property tax increase would be used for and the potential impacts of the increase not passing.
2 He explained that the legislators who are proposing these bills have never worked in local
3 government and do not understand the financial impacts of property taxes, nor do they try to address
4 where that missing revenue would come from if property taxes go away.

5 Mayor Bradshaw talked about some bills she has been working on with the ULCT. She
6 explained Rep. Paul Cutler has an e-bike and e-motorcycle bill that is trying to create clearer
7 definitions and training courses for certain vehicles. She said that bill passed unanimously at
8 committee, so it just has one more vote on the senate floor. She expressed how excited she is for this
9 bill to pass and praised Rep. Cutler for his hard work.

10 Mayor Bradshaw said Rep. Cal Roberts has been working on a bill for an infrastructure
11 partnership program that is seeking to increase housing by helping fund the infrastructure that would
12 finally allow lots to become “buildable.”

13 Mayor Bradshaw spoke about a bill from Sen. Harper that would change UTA’s governance
14 from a 3-commission model to a 7-member board, and ULCT is working hard to make sure we would
15 have local representation on that board, which is very important.

16 Finally, Mayor Bradshaw talked about a bill from Rep. Elison that deals with homelessness
17 and would require non-host cities to contribute to a “mitigation fund.” She explained that a 15%
18 increase would be placed on Bountiful which is about \$200k. She said she would feel more
19 comfortable if a more formal work group were in place to identify the requirements for shelter cities
20 asking for funds, and a long-term plan would be nice too, instead of facing an uncertain future of
21 being asked for more and more contributions.

22 Councilmember Higginson asked about the bill that was proposing an increase to water rates.
23 Mayor Bradshaw explained that a substitute bill was shared this morning that removed the bulk of the
24 concerns about a forced rate increase, but is still encouraging cities who want to enter into a
25 revolving infrastructure loan fund that they must meet certain water rate benchmarks.

26 Mr. Hill explained that the original bill proposed that every community would need to assess
27 their residents a fee, which for Bountiful would be about \$20M/year or \$1,500 per water connection.
28 That money would be put into a fund to help communities who need to fix their infrastructure,
29 essentially making our residents pay for other cities’ water systems. Needless to say, this bill was
30 very, very troubling.

31 Councilmember Child brought up HB286 dealing with protecting children from AI harm.
32 Mayor Bradshaw said there has been a theme this year of bills seeking to examine AI policies and to
33 protect children from the ill-effects of technology use, like the Bell to Bell ban on youth cell phone
34 use during school hours.

35 Sen. Weiler arrived at 6:50 pm and was given the floor to talk about some of the bills.

36 Sen. Weiler brought up SB211, a bill seeking to overturn the effects of a recent Utah Supreme
37 Court ruling that altered the status quo in personal injury lawsuits and was more advantageous to the
38 insurance companies. SB280 is a competing bill that seeks to favor the insurance companies even
39 more. He said he was in favor of returning to the status quo and did not think “the sky would fall” if it
40 passed, although he acknowledged cities would see a negative impact.

41 Next, he discussed a bill he authored that would allow teachers to discuss religion in the
42 classroom as it pertains to teaching the context of historical events and statements. He explained that
43 many teachers are afraid to bring up religious concepts at all and they should feel empowered by this
44 clarification.

1 Sen. Weiler also talked about the Bell to Bell cell-phone ban bill, saying he supports it
2 because the data about cell phone addiction is irrefutable and they hinder our children from learning
3 in school.

4 He then spoke about a bill that passed today that will hold a child back at the 3rd grade level if
5 they are not reading at that level, however each school district has the power to overturn the policy if
6 they choose. He said he hopes this bill will help parents read with their children more and that all the
7 stakeholders will make it more of a priority. The data shows that every year after 3rd grade they will
8 fall further and further behind if they are allowed to continue.

9 Mayor Bradshaw said the time was up and thanked Sen. Weiler for making time in his busy
10 schedule to come tonight.

11
12 The work session ended at 7:01 pm.

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15 **Regular Meeting – 7:00 p.m.**
16 **City Council Chambers**

17
18 Present: Mayor Kate Bradshaw
19 Councilmembers Mille Segura Bahr, Dan Bell, Beth Child, Richard
20 Higginson, Matt Murri
21 City Manager Gary Hill
22 Asst City Manager Tyson Beck
23 City Attorney Brad Jeppsen
24 City Engineer Lloyd Cheney
25 Power Director Allen Johnson
26 Chief of Police Ed Biehler
27 Dispatch Center Supervisor Amy Waldron
28 Streets Director Charles Benson
29 Recording Secretary Maranda Hilton
30

31 **WELCOME, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND THOUGHT/PRAYER**

32 Mayor Bradshaw called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm and welcomed those in attendance.
33 Mr. Kimball Jacobs led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mr. Clay Christiansen offered a prayer.
34

35 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

36 The time for public comment was opened at 7:09 pm.
37

38 Ms. Isabelle Mulligan (resident) shared her concerns about the City allowing U.S.
39 Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents to come here. She demanded that the Council
40 keep our community safe by making policies now to keep them out and to be transparent about how
41 City resources may or may not be used.
42

43 Ms. Isabelle Ghabash (resident) also shared her concerns about the impact of ICE entering our
44 city. She called for the Council to do six things; require ICE to acquire judicial warrants before any
45 City resources can be accessed, pass a resolution calling for the abolition of ICE, mandate public
46 reporting of interactions with federal agencies, provide educational resources and partner with

1 immigrant rights organizations, fund community advisory bodies that monitor residents' rights, and
2 ensure no City funds, staff or facilities are used for federal immigration enforcement.
3

4 Ms. Serena Erhott (Director of the Bountiful Davis Arts Center) thanked the Council for their
5 continued support through RAP tax funds and talked about the economic and cultural impact the arts
6 center has in our community. She encouraged the Council to review their newly-developed
7 comprehensive plan and thanked them again for the stability they help provide to the BDAC.
8

9 Mr. Dennis King (Founder, Bountiful Community Garden) explained that the George K.
10 Fadel family graciously donated their land at 1800 South and Orchard Drive to be used by the
11 Community Garden, and because of that, the Garden was able to donate 20 fruit trees and over 500
12 lbs of fresh produce to the Bountiful Food Pantry last year. He expressed his gratitude to the Council
13 for their support and how proud the Garden was to be helping in the community.
14

15 Mr. Kimbal Jacobs (resident) said he and his wife live at the late George K. Fadel property
16 and feel honored and blessed to be part of this organization. He also spoke of what a great man Mr.
17 Fadel was.
18

19 The time for public comment was closed at 7:19 pm.
20

21 **COUNCIL REPORTS**

22 Mayor Bradshaw announced that Chief Stewart of the South Davis Metro Fire Area passed
23 away on Friday, saying that it is truly a tragic loss for the fire district, our dispatchers and our police
24 department who all worked closely with him. She held a moment of silence to honor Chief Stewart
25 and asked everyone to keep his family in their thoughts and prayers. She said that funeral details are
26 still being finalized but the funeral will likely take place early next week. She reported that the Fire
27 Board is working hard to make sure all the firefighters and staff have access to counselors and the
28 support and resources they need so they can process this tragedy. She reported that Jeff Larsen has
29 been named Interim Chief and they are doing their very best to ensure our community is still being
30 served during this time.

31 Councilmember Higginson reported that the Power Commission met that morning and
32 discussed the bleak water levels at Lake Powell. He said the City can expect to see reduced power
33 generation this year and likely price increases as well.

34 Councilmember Murri thanked Mayor Bradshaw and Ms. Beverly Ward for hosting the
35 BCYC at the State Capital last week. He announced that Mr. Greg White has been appointed as the
36 new Director of the Mosquito Abatement District following the retirement of Mr. Gary Hatch. He
37 also reported that the Sewer District is expanding their treatment area and working to get everything
38 aligned with EPA regulations.

39 Councilmember Child announced that the Davis School District art show at the BDAC is
40 accepting applications right now, adding that it is one of her favorite shows of the year. She also
41 reminded everyone that the Carpenters Platinum fundraising concert is on March 28th and tickets can
42 be purchased online. She reported that the Community Service Council members are getting ready for
43 the Car Show and other summer events, and thanked them for the time they put in for the benefit of
44 our community.

45 Councilmember Bahr did not have a report, but offered her condolences to the firefighters and
46 first responders and to the Stewart family.

Councilmember Bell reported on the Recreation District Board, saying that Ms. Gina Hirst from Centerville had been appointed, and that the final payment for the 2004 bond was made in January. He also shared that youth hockey programs have been growing in popularity and are becoming a wonderful source of revenue. He reported that the chiller at the ice ribbon will not be repaired until the off season, and that they were able to avoid replacing the expensive scoreboard at the pool by sourcing parts for it and fixing it instead. Lastly, he said that talks about expanding the recreation center will be put on hold as they continue to focus on cutting expenses and controlling the budget.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF:

- a. **EXPENDITURES GREATER THAN \$1,000 PAID ON JANUARY 21ST, 28TH, AND FEBRUARY 4TH, AND 11TH, 2026**
- b. **DECEMBER 2025 FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Councilmember Higginson made a motion to approve the expenditures and the December 2025 Financial Report, and Councilmember Murri seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Bahr, Bell, Child, Higginson, and Murri voting “aye.”

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A LIQUOR LICENSE FOR ST. OLAF’S CATHOLIC SCHOOL, 1793 SOUTH ORCHARD DRIVE – MR. FRANCISCO ASTORGA

Mr. Francisco Astorga explained that this license is for a single event which will take place on April 26th, 2026. The application was reviewed and found to be in compliance with local laws.

Councilmember Higginson made a motion to approve the liquor license for St. Olaf’s Catholic School and Councilmember Bahr seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Bahr, Bell, Child, Higginson, and Murri voting “aye.”

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A SITE PLAN REVIEW FOR REVOLUTIONARY RIDES, 320 SOUTH 200 WEST – MR. FRANCISCO ASTORGA

Mr. Astorga explained that this will be a vehicle services business specializing in window tinting, paint protection film, and vinyl wrapping. The Planning Commission reviewed this at their last meeting and forwarded a positive recommendation. Staff is happy this site will be occupied again.

Councilmember Child said she was also glad this site would be used and thanked Mr. Haslam for agreeing to the upgrades to the landscaping.

Councilmember Bell asked what the landscaping requirements were. Mr. Astorga explained that all surfaces that are not covered in a building or an impervious surface need to be landscaped, and that this was an opportunity to restore this site back to how it should be.

Councilmember Bahr made a motion to approve the site plan review for 320 South 200 West and Councilmember Child seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Bahr, Bell, Child, Higginson, and Murri voting “aye.”

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 2026-03, APPROVING THE INTERLOCAL COOPERATION BETWEEN BOUNTIFUL CITY AND DAVIS COUNTY FOR HIGHWAY DISPATCH CALL ROUTING – CHIEF ED BIEHLER

Ms. Amy Waldron explained that this Resolution will help with the efficiency of dispatching for calls made on all state highway corridors in the Bountiful Dispatch service area. Currently the Davis County dispatch center takes all calls for the Utah Highway Patrol (UHP). This agreement

1 would allow the Utah Communications Authority (UCA) to modify the geofencing boundaries so that
2 calls from the highway corridors in our service area go directly to Davis County dispatch instead of
3 being initially received by the Bountiful dispatch center and then rerouted to Davis County. Staff
4 does not believe this will greatly impact the volume of calls handled by Bountiful dispatch.

5 Mayor Bradshaw asked Mr. Bradley Jeppsen about the updates to the staff report. He
6 answered that the geofencing map was added because it was not originally included in the packet.

7 Mr. Jeppsen also explained that this agreement may be assigned by Davis County to Layton
8 City in the future, so Layton City was consulted during the process of writing the agreement.

9 Councilmember Child made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-03 and
10 Councilmember Bell seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Bahr, Bell,
11 Child, Higginson, and Murri voting “aye.”

12
13 **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE AMERICA250**
14 **CELEBRATION – MR. TYSON BECK**

15 Mr. Tyson Beck asked Mayor Bradshaw if she would like to introduce this agenda item.

16 Mayor Bradshaw explained that both the national and state levels of government have
17 encouraged communities to participate in a year-long celebration to educate and serve one another for
18 the nation’s 250th birthday; they are calling it America250. She explained that the City gathered
19 together representatives from various community organizations and met on February 14th to discuss
20 how they could join the effort. She reported that Mr. Jamie Dester and Ms. Rhonda Perkes will be the
21 co-chairs of the America250 committee, and five subcommittees have been organized focusing on
22 health and wellness, education, service, celebration, and communication.

23 Councilmember Child noted that it was a wonderful meeting with over 40 people in
24 attendance, and she expressed her excitement for the coming year.

25 Mr. Beck presented the letter of support that Bountiful will submit to the State America250
26 Commission in order to use the America250 branding and logos on our social media channels and our
27 website, etc. He asked if the Council had any edits to make to the letter before it was printed, signed
28 and submitted, noting that Councilmember Child had already made some suggested edits.

29 Councilmember Bell made a motion to approve the letter of support, including the edits made
30 by Councilmember Child, and Councilmember Murri seconded the motion. The motion passed with
31 Councilmembers Bahr, Bell, Child, Higginson, and Murri voting “aye.”

32
33 **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE PURCHASE OF TWO PME-9 PAD MOUNTED**
34 **SWITCHGEAR AND FUSE HOLDERS FROM IRBY IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT \$49,940 –**
35 **MR. ALLEN JOHNSON**

36 Mr. Allen Johnson explained that these underground cans have fuses and switches in them
37 and are used to isolate both main lines and smaller circuits when they need to be worked on. He said
38 that these units will be specifically used for the I-15 widening project and thus will be fully
39 reimbursed by UDOT at a later date.

40 Councilmember Bell asked about the reimbursement details. Mr. Johnson answered that
41 Bountiful has an agreement in place with UDOT that states UDOT will pay 100% of the parts and
42 labor needed to move or make changes to our infrastructure, etc. as part of the I-15 project.

43 Councilmember Bahr made a motion to approve the purchase of the two PME-9 switchgear
44 and fuse holders from Irby, and Councilmember Higginson seconded the motion. The motion passed
45 with Councilmembers Bahr, Bell, Child, Higginson, and Murri voting “aye.”

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE PURCHASE OF 20 TRANSFORMERS FROM STUART C IRBY IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$36,317 – MR. ALLEN JOHNSON

Mr. Johnson explained that the Power crews have stayed very busy all winter, due to the mild weather, rebuilding lines and replacing poles in backyards. He explained that these transformers are needed to replace inventory that is being used. These transformers have previously been identified in the budget.

Councilmember Bell made a motion to approve the purchase of the 20 transformers from Stuart C. Irby and Councilmember Higginson seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Bahr, Bell, Child, Higginson, and Murri voting “aye.”

Councilmember Bell asked what the wait time is for the transformers. Mr. Johnson said it is only about 10 weeks.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE PURCHASE OF 2 TCDF TRANSMISSION SWITCHES FROM WESCO-HUBBELL IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$58,944 – MR. ALLEN JOHNSON

Mr. Johnson explained that these transmission switches will also be used for the I-15 project and thus, also reimbursed by UDOT. This purchase has an almost yearlong delivery time, but UDOT has already approved this purchase for reimbursement.

Councilmember Higginson made a motion to approve the purchase of the TCDF transmission switches from Wesco-Hubbell and Councilmember Bahr seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Bahr, Bell, Child, Higginson, and Murri voting “aye.”

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE PURCHASE OF POWER POLES FROM STELLA-JONES IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$51,686 – MR. ALLEN JOHNSON

Mr. Johnson explained that these are the butt-treated poles for the backyard lines, which are being replaced quickly this winter due to the mild weather.

Councilmember Bell made a motion to approve the purchase of the power poles from Stella-Jones and Councilmember Child seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Bahr, Bell, Child, Higginson, and Murri voting “aye.”

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE PURCHASE OF A DISPATCH CENTER BATTERY BANK SYSTEM FROM RELIABL IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$49,830 – MR. ALLEN JOHNSON

Mr. Johnson explained that these batteries provide emergency backup power for the control systems, radios and lights at the dispatch center. The dispatch center also has generators, but these batteries can provide up to 10 hours of support if needed. The current batteries are old and starting to degrade, so they need to be replaced. The higher bid received is for a bigger battery bank than is needed, so staff suggests accepting the lower bid from Reliabl.

Councilmember Murri made a motion to approve the purchase of a battery bank system from Reliabl and Councilmember Bell seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Bahr, Bell, Child, Higginson, and Murri voting “aye.”

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE PURCHASE OF CAPACITOR BANKS FROM WESCO IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$39,856 – MR. ALLEN JOHNSON

1 Mr. Johnson explained that capacitor banks are used to control voltage and are a necessary
2 part of the power system. Staff has started to see failures and need to replace some aging units, but
3 delivery time is 24 – 28 weeks, which means this purchase will likely be on next year’s budget.

4 Councilmember Bahr made a motion to approve the purchase of the capacitor banks from
5 Wesco and Councilmember Higginson seconded the motion. The motion passed with
6 Councilmembers Bahr, Bell, Child, Higginson, and Murri voting “aye.”
7
8

9 **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSAL FROM TAYLOR ELECTRIC FOR THE**
10 **2026 CONCRETE REPLACEMENT CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT NOTED IN THE BID**
11 **TABULATION – MR. LLOYD CHENEY**

12 Mr. Lloyd Cheney explained that this is always an important contract for the City as we use it
13 to do a lot of the repair work for various departments and the prep work for street overlays, and ADA
14 ramps, etc. He said that Taylor Electric has been selected this year and staff feels they will do a great
15 job. They will start as soon as the weather permits.

16 Councilmember Bahr asked if they could request specific ADA ramp locations and make
17 more of the ramps ADA compliant in general. Mr. Cheney said that anytime his department gets a
18 complaint about a trip hazard they put in a work order and do their best to have the contractor address
19 it while they are in that area.

20 Councilmember Bell asked for more details about this contract in years past. Mr. Cheney
21 answered that the City has been doing this kind of contract for many years and has used several
22 contractors over that time. The contract can be extended up to two times and prices renegotiated
23 yearly as part of that. The last contractor, JMR Construction, held the contract for three years, so it
24 went out for a rebid this year.

25 Councilmember Higginson made a motion to approve the proposal from Taylor Electric for
26 the 2026 concrete replacement contract and Councilmember Bahr seconded the motion. The motion
27 passed with Councilmembers Bahr, Bell, Child, Higginson, and Murri voting “aye.”
28

29 **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE NO. 2026-01, CODIFYING A MUNICIPAL**
30 **TRANSIENT ROOM TAX – MR. BRADLEY JEPSEN**

31 Mr. Jepsen explained that when the Transient Room Tax ordinance was originally passed in
32 May 2022, it was focused on short-term rentals in residential zones. Now that a hotel is being built in
33 Bountiful, staff felt it necessary to clarify the text and add a “Transient Lodge” definition to the
34 ordinance. This will make it more clear that the transient room tax applies to both types of rentals.

35 Councilmember Bahr made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2026-01 and Councilmember
36 Higginson seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Bahr, Bell, Child,
37 Higginson, and Murri voting “aye.”
38

39 **ADJOURN TO A MEETING OF THE RDA BOARD WITH A SEPARATE AGENDA**

40 Councilmember Higginson made a motion to adjourn to a meeting of the RDA Board and
41 Councilmember Murri seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Bahr, Bell,
42 Child, Higginson, and Murri voting “aye.”
43

44 The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 pm.

Mayor Kate Bradshaw

City Recorder

PENDING